



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

72-HOUR REPORT

12 APRIL 2021

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Fresno – Police Officer with Former Ties to Extremist Group Fired

(U) A Fresno police officer who is a former member of the extremist group Proud Boys has been fired. Officer Rick Fitzgerald had been on paid leave since an internal police investigation was launched last month after some people said he was seen wearing clothing associated with the white nationalist group while attending a rally in support of selling a local theatre to a church. The Fresno Police Department worked with other agencies, including the FBI, to determine that no other officers were members of the Proud Boys or any other hate group.

SOURCE: 10 April 2021, [Associated Press](#)

(U) Los Angeles – Four Alleged Militia Members Charged with Destroying Evidence

(U) Four Northern California men allegedly affiliated with the far-right extremist "Grizzly" militia have been indicted on charges of destroying evidence in a federal investigation of their associate and Boogaloo adherent Steven Carrillo who killed two law enforcement officers. Jessie Alexander Rush, 29, of Turlock; Robert Jesus Blancas, 33, no hometown given; Simon Sage Ybarra, 23, of Los Gatos; and Kenny Matthew Miksch, 21, of San Lorenzo, are charged in the March 2021 indictment with conspiracy to destroy records, destruction of records and obstruction of official proceedings.

SOURCE: 9 April 2021, [NBC News](#)

(U) Menifee – Woman Sentenced for Using Stolen Identities to Obtain \$500K in COVID Relief

(U) A Riverside County woman was sentenced today to 37-months in federal prison for fraudulently obtaining more than \$500,000 in COVID-19-related unemployment benefits by using the stolen personal information of dozens of individuals obtained from the darknet. Cara Marie Kirk-Connell, 33, of Menifee, was sentenced by US District Judge André Birotte, Jr. Kirk-Connell pleaded guilty in December 2020 to a single-count information charging her with use of an unauthorized access device.

SOURCE: 9 April 2021, [US DOJ Press Release](#)

(U) Riverside – Three Women Arrested for Obtaining COVID-Related Unemployment Benefits

(U) Federal authorities arrested three women on fraud charges alleging they used information belonging to California state prison inmates to file for pandemic-related unemployment benefits, with each causing at least \$345,000 in losses. The three defendants are charged in separate criminal complaints, and each woman faces two counts of fraud in connection with emergency benefits and wire fraud. With the three cases announced, prosecutors in the Central District of California have now charged a dozen defendants with fraudulently obtaining enhanced unemployment benefits implemented during the pandemic.

SOURCE: 9 April 2021, [US DOJ Press Release](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) Colorado – 310,000 Records Compromised in University of Colorado Data Breach

(U) Boulder – The University of Colorado released new information about the Accellion data breach that compromised more than 310,000 university records. Officials say data accessed in the breach includes

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grades and transcript data, visa and disability status, medical and prescription information and in limited cases, Social Security numbers and university financial account information.

SOURCE: 9 April 2021, [CBS Denver](#)

(U) Georgia – Three Officers Shot During Criminal Pursuit

(U) Carroll County – At least three law enforcement officers were injured this morning by gun fire, during a chase and a shooting. A Carroll County spokesperson said that there was a Georgia State Patrol chase that started in Bremen and made its way into Carroll County and Villa Rica early this morning. The Carroll County sheriff's office said the scene has been contained and that there no longer a threat to the public at this time. The Georgia Bureau of Investigation has been called to investigate the shooting.

SOURCE: 12 April 2021, [WSB](#)

(U) Illinois – Man Sentenced for Plotting to Help ISIS

(U) Chicago – A man was sentenced to 13 ½-years in federal prison for attempting to aid the Islamic State in Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS) by providing cellphones to an undercover FBI agent to be used as detonators for bombs. Edward Schimenti and Joseph Jones were convicted in 2019 of conspiracy to provide material support to an extremist organization. In a court filing, Assistant US Attorney Barry Jonas wrote that Schimenti was the more violent, and at one point expressed to an undercover informant a desire to attack service members at the Naval Station Great Lakes near North Chicago.

SOURCE: 10 April 2021, [Chicago Tribune](#)

(U) Oregon – Fires Burn During Protest at Immigration Building

(U) Portland – At least two fires broke out at an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) building during a demonstration but the building itself was not set on fire, officials said. Police responded to the building to help after the Federal Protective Service, which provides security at federal buildings, reported that a group outside the building was starting a fire. Officers found at least two fires when they arrived, including one that appeared to be against the building. Photos and video show a small fire burning on the ground outside the building and a fire that appeared to be burning on plywood set up around the building.

SOURCE: 11 April 2021, [Associated Press](#)

(U) Tennessee – AWOL Soldier Accused of Carrying Gun on Flight

(U) Nashville – A soldier carried a gun onto a flight from Chicago to Nashville earlier this year, falsely claiming to be a law enforcement officer transporting evidence to the FBI. A criminal complaint reveals Jaidan Higueros, 19, was charged with carrying a weapon or explosive on an aircraft. The charges stem from a flight in February 2021, in which investigators said Higueros flew from Chicago to Nashville. The complaint states a Federal Air Marshal onboard the flight noticed Higueros was acting suspiciously and determined he was carrying a firearm inside a duffle bag in the passenger compartment of the aircraft.

SOURCE: 9 April 2021, [WKRN](#)

(U) Texas – Man Charged with Intent to Attack Data Centers

(U) Wichita Falls – A man who allegedly plotted to blow up a data center in Virginia has been charged with a malicious attempt to destroy a building with an explosive. Seth Aaron Pendley, 28, was arrested after allegedly attempting to obtain an explosive device from an undercover FBI employee in Fort Worth. He was charged via criminal complaint and made his initial appearance in federal court. According to the complaint, the investigation began after a concerned citizen contacted the FBI in January 2021 about alarming statements posted on MyMilitia.com, a forum dedicated to organizing militia groups.

SOURCE: 9 April 2021, [US DOJ Press Release](#)

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(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) France – 195 Arrested in Vast International Human Trafficking Sweep

(U) Paris – Interpol says police in Africa and Europe arrested 195 people and rescued nearly 500 victims of human trafficking in a vast crackdown on criminal networks led by the France-based international law enforcement agency. Interpol said in a statement that Morocco hosted the operation, which involved 24 countries exchanging intelligence and support from the International Organization for Migration and other international groups. The 195 people arrested were accused of human trafficking, migrant smuggling, document fraud, drug offenses or other crimes.

SOURCE: 9 April 2021, [Associated Press](#)

(U) Sweden – Afghan Migrants Suspected of Plotting Attack

(U) Stockholm – The Swedish security police Säpo arrested two Afghans, a man and a woman, during the Easter holiday on suspicion of plotting a terror attack. Säpo announced the arrests following a police operation in the Stockholm region. The suspects were described as Afghan nationals in their 30's who are said to be a couple living together and were registered in a municipality north of the city of Stockholm. According to the newspaper, police suspected an imminent terrorist attack, but it is believed the couple had allegedly been planning the event since January 2021.

SOURCE: 10 April 2021, [Breitbart](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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